HERMAN ANDREAS LOOS.

THE death of Dr. Herman Andreas Loos which has already been noticed in these columns, adds another to the long list of men of science whose lives have been blotted out by the scourges of the tropics.

Dr. Loos, though a very young man, was a chemist of exceptional promise. He was granted the degree of Bachelor of Science by the College of the City of New York in 1895. In 1897 he entered the School of Chemistry of Columbia University. When temporary business reverses removed the available funds for the completion of his education, he put his shoulder to the wheel and for two years before he entered Columbia taught in both the day and the night schools of this city. While doing his graduate work in the University he ably filled the instructorship in Chemistry in the East Side Evening High School. As an honor for his ability and perseverance he was awarded the University Fellowship in Chemistry for 1899–1900.

His principal contributions to the literature of chemistry are: 'The Electrolytic Determination of Zinc in Amalgam' (thesis for M. A.); 'A Study on the Metallic Carbonyls and their Decomposition (*School of Mines Quarterly 21*, 182); 'The Decomposition of Nickel Carbonyl in Solution' (*Journal American Chemical Society 22*, 144); 'A Study on Colophony Resin' (thesis for Ph.D.). In the study on Colophony Resin he has decided two controverted points, viz: that abietic acid will form an anhydride on heating, and that it is not an oxidation product of turpentine. He has also developed a new method for the preparation of pure abietic acid and established its formula by a number of analyses. Many new salts were prepared and their decomposition both by water and sunlight, noted. The whole work is of great theoretical and practical interest.

Immediately after receiving his degree Dr. Loos was appointed assistant in analytical chemistry in Columbia University. He resigned this position, however, to accept a flattering offer from the Copper Corporation of Chili, and it was while en route to Chañaral that he was stricken with yellow fever, of which he died July 17th.

At the age of twenty-four, by his own efforts, he had earned an education and established for his name an honorable place in the literature of his profession. No finer tribute can be paid to his energy and ability and ambition. Strange indeed must be one's thoughts when it is realized that the victims of yellow fever on board the steamship *Chili* were Italians or Chinese laborers with the one exception, the brilliant, energetic, educated Dr. Loos.

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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY,
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SCIENTIFIC BOOKS.

Photometrical Measurements and Manual for the general Practice of Photometry with especial Reference to the Photometry of Arc and Incandescent Lamps. By WILBUR M. STINE, Ph.D. New York, The Macmillan Company.

The scope of this little manual is indicated in its subtitle. The arrangement and proportioning of the material look always toward electric light photometry. Subjects which have a scientific, rather than an industrial interest, like spectrophotometry, are briefly dealt with, or omitted altogether, and the gas-engineer will find no reference to the special problems with which he has to struggle. Within the limits set by himself, Dr. Stine has produced a useful book. Less compact than Krüss, less comprehensive than Palaz, it is perhaps more directly adapted to the student than either. The material is judiciously selected, the discussions are clear and careful, the bibliographical references amply sufficient for the purposes of the book.

Some two-thirds of the volume are occupied in discussion and criticism of photometric instruments and standards of light, thirty or forty pages are given to general and theoretical